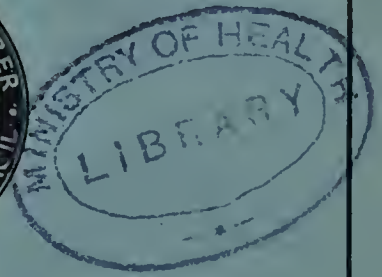


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**BARTON-UPON-HUMBER  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
FOR THE YEAR 1953.

**F. P. H. BIRTWHISTLE, M.D.,**  
Medical Officer of Health.

**J. Brocklebank, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,**  
Sanitary Inspector.

BARTON :  
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—  
1954.



September, 1954.

**To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District of Barton-upon-Humber.**

Gentlemen,

I present for your information my Annual Report for 1953.

**General Statistics.**

The area of Barton-on-Humber is :—

6,343 acres land and inland waters.

838 acres tidal waters.

The population is 6,339.

There are 2,160 inhabited houses in the town.

The rateable value of the district is £28,605.

**Vital Statistics.**

Live Births				Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	62	42	104
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—	1
Total	...	...	...	63	42	105

Birth Rate (excluding Still-births) 16.5 per 1,000 population.

Still-births				Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	2	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—

Deaths				Males.	Females.	Total.
				45	43	88

Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age.				Males	Females	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	—	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	3	—	3

Deaths of Infants under 4 Weeks of Age.				Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	—	3
Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	3	—	3

Death Rate (all ages) 13.8 per 1,000 population.

Causes of Death.				Males.	Females.	Total.
Tuberculosis, Non-Respiratory				1	—	1
Syphilitic Disease	...	...		—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach				1	1	2
"          "          Lung				2	—	2
"          "          Breast				—	2	2
"          "          Uterus				—	1	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	...			3	3	6
Leukaemia	...	...		—	1	1
Vascular lesions of Nervous System				8	10	18
Coronary Disease, Angina	...			7	4	11
Hypertension with Heart Disease				—	1	1
Other Heart Disease	...			4	7	11
Other Circulatory Disease	...			—	3	3
Influenza	...	...	...	3	—	3
Pneumonia	...	...	...	2	1	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	3	—	3
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum				1	—	1
Gastritis Enteritis Diarrhoea				—	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...			1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...			2	—	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion				—	2	2
Other defined and ill-defined Diseases				4	4	8
Accidents other than Motor Vehicle				3	1	4

### Notifiable Diseases.

The following infectious diseases have been notified to me during the year :—

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Whooping Cough	...	...		31	30	61
Scarlet Fever	...	...		1	—	1
Measles	...	...		4	3	7
Pneumonia	...	...		5	1	6
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	...			3	1	4
Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary				1	1	2

## **Health Services.**

The Lindsey County Council has a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, a School Clinic and a Tuberculosis Clinic at its premises at No. 50 Holydyke.

Maternity Homes are provided by the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board at Scunthorpe and Cleethorpes.

An ambulance operated by the County Council is stationed at the County Fire Station, Holydyke, and is available for the residents of Barton and the surrounding district.

Accommodation for Infectious Diseases is provided by the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board at Brumby and elsewhere.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations are carried out at Lincoln by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

## **Water Supply.**

The mains water supply has been of good bacteriological quality. Nine samples have been taken during the year and all have been reported to be satisfactory. In addition regular samples are taken both of the raw and treated water by the bulk suppliers, the North Lindsey Water Board.

The extension of mains has enabled more house connections to be made, and the number of houses connected to the main supply is steadily increasing.

## **Sanitary Administration.**

The report of the Sanitary Inspector is incorporated with this report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. P. H. BIRTWHISTLE,

Barton-on-Humber.

Medical Officer of Health.

## **Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector. 1953.**

I submit for your consideration my annual report for 1953. As this is my fifth annual report, I think it is appropriate to review the work of the Committee during that period, and to examine future developments, as well as giving a detailed account of the activities of 1953.

### **1. Housing.**

As in former years the repairs which have been required have been restricted to those items which were necessary to make houses weatherproof and free from serious nuisance. This policy was necessary in the past on account of the shortage of materials and labour, but conditions have now changed to such an extent that systematic and comprehensive repair of those houses which are worth it, is possible.

Not only is such a course of action possible, but I consider it is essential in order to prevent the further deterioration of existing houses. This policy will be facilitated by the financial provisions of the Housing Bill now before Parliament.

So far, the improvement grant scheme of the Housing Act, 1949, has been little used. This can play an important part in keeping sound houses in continued occupation by providing them with modern amenities which today are quite properly considered essential. There is in my opinion a great deal of scope for improvement of houses in this way in the district.

In two cases during the year the Council accepted undertakings about the future use of unfit houses which had been the subject of demolition order procedure. This makes a total of twelve houses dealt with during the last five years. While this procedure has effectively dealt with these unfit houses the method has been in the nature of a stop gap. The systematic clearance of the really unfit houses in the district is now possible and the formulation of schemes of clearance is likely to be made a statutory duty in the near future.

At the present time much attention is being given to improvement and repair of dwellinghouses, all of which is very prudent. There is a danger however that this attitude may wrongly be taken to mean that any unfit house can be improved and made fit by repair, reconditioning or improvement. The clearest distinction must be made and kept constantly in the minds of all concerned with housing administration, between those houses which cannot be made fit and those which are worth repair and improvement. A failure to make this distinction will lead to a series of half measures and frittering away of public funds on unworthy projects.

The statistical details relating to dwellinghouses are as follows :

Total number of New Houses erected during the year	...	22
1 By the Local Authority	... ..	16
2 By other Local Authorities	... ..	2
3 By other bodies or persons	... ..	4

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.

1 (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	169
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	487
2 (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regs. 1925	... ..	3
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	11
3 Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	3
4 Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...		159

Remedy of Defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	... ..	116
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Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :		
1 Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	27
2 Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a) By owners	... ..	16
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	6
(b) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :		



1	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	nil
2	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (8 of them were derelict, which were subject to prewar D.O's.)	...	...	...	10
3	Number of dwellinghouses subject to undertakings				2

## 2 Food Inspection and Food Premises.

### Food Premises.

Visits were made to the various types of food premises in the district during the year. Standards of cleanliness were reasonably satisfactory but no doubt rather difficult to maintain owing to the bad structural condition of many of the premises.

During the last five years progress in the improvement of food premises has been disappointingly slow and falls behind what has been achieved in other fields, as for example in the installation of piped water supplies and the provision of water closets to dwelling-houses.

A good example of the results which are obtained by dealing systematically with one type of premises is seen in the survey of Licenced Houses which the Council ordered in 1952. This revealed deficiencies in washing facilities and sanitary accommodation, all of which were remedied within twelve months of the presentation of the report.

While it is important that the health and comfort of the beer consuming public should be adequately safeguarded, it appears to be more important that the interests of the whole community who consume food, should be similarly safeguarded.



The basic requirements for food hygiene are well known and are laid down by statute. A detailed survey and report followed by a firm policy of remedying of defects would produce worth while improvements in the standard condition of food premises.

Structural improvements however are only part of the solution of the problem. Education of food trade employees in simple rules of hygiene so far as it relates to food is essential if the improved structures and facilities are to be used to the best advantage. The active interest and participation of owners and management in any scheme of instruction is also of vital importance.

#### Ice Cream.

One manufacturer of ice cream remains in the district now. Of the four samples taken during the season when he operates all were placed in Grade 1. The fourteen retailers of ice cream all sell wrapped nationally known brands and are equipped with refrigerators.

#### Milk Supply.

No significant change has taken place with the local milk supply in the year except for a slight increase in the number of retailers of sterilised milk. There are no dairies registered in the district. There are nineteen milk retailers, one of whom sells raw undesignated milk, three sell pasturised milk and the remaining fifteen sell bottled sterilised milk chiefly from grocers and general shops.

Six samples of designated milk were taken and all complied with the requirements of the Regulations. In addition samples for biological examination were taken from the raw milk supply mentioned above and sent for examination for tubercle bacilli. All results were negative. This sampling is done on behalf of the County Council.

## Meat Inspection.

The following table gives details of meat inspection carried out at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse during 1953.

### Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

			Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	...	...	810	133	122	2884	891
Number Inspected		...	810	133	122	2883	891
All diseases except Tuberculosis—							
Whole carcasses condemned			6	9	7	38	29
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned			240	69	6	125	149
Percentage of Number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuber- culosis	...	...	30%	58%	10%	5%	19%
Tuberculosis only—							
Whole carcasses condemned			5	2	2	—	3
Carcase of which part or organ was condemned	...		72	25	1	—	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	9%	20%	2%	—	2%

The following numbers of animals were admitted for emergency slaughter and are included in the totals above.

Cattle excluding	Cows	...	...	35
Cows	...	...	...	34
Calves	...	...	...	11
Sheep	...	...	...	109
Pigs	...	...	...	141

The total weight of meat found to be unfit for human consumption was 17 tons 13 cwts. which includes 11 tons 18 cwts. from casualties.

The alterations to the slaughterhouses which were commenced during the previous year were completed during 1953. The larger of the two slaughterhouses was further increased in size by incorporating an adjoining stable and providing additional lairage for beasts. Overhead rails and a winch were installed all of which makes for easier and more efficient working. The most important aspect of the improvement is that it has provided additional hanging space for carcases.

3 Water Supply.

Further extensions of the water mains, together with new connections following closet conversions has brought the percentage of houses with a piped water supply in the district up to 91%, 67% have an internal supply and 24% an external supply. Most of the houses without a piped supply are outlying on the edge of the district where it is not practicable to carry a mains supply. These houses are dependant upon bores and wells.

Thirteen samples were taken from the wells during the year. This led to the closing of two polluted wells supplying eight houses and the substitution of piped supplies.

Nine samples from the public supply were taken and sent for examination. All were pronounced satisfactory.

4. General Sanitation.

Nuisances.

Total number of nuisances during the year—

- (1) Abated as result of informal action by Sanitary Inspector ... 45
- (2) Reported to Council—Statutory Notice issued ... 8

Details of Nuisances abated—

	After Informal Intimation.	After Statutory Notice.
Smoke	2	—
Accumulation of Refuse	1	—
Dampness	5	4
Other nuisances	37	4

## Drainage.

Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc. ... ..	35
Waste pipes, disconnected, repaired, etc. ... ..	4
Drains unstopped, repaired, etc. ... ..	34
Existing soil pipes, etc., renewed or repaired ... ..	nil

Following the flooding which occurred in Holydyke and Butts Road area in 1952 owing to the surcharge of sewers during heavy rain, consulting engineers carried out a survey of the sewerage system in May and June of 1953. A considerable amount of time was spent assisting in this survey chiefly in the location of sewers whose positions were not accurately known. At the same time a number of manholes were constructed at sewer junctions.

In addition two storm overflows were provided at appropriate points. These have been effective in reducing the flooding to some small extent, but at the best they must be considered temporary stop gaps useful only in mitigating the evil until such time as a comprehensive scheme can be undertaken.

## Sanitary Accommodation.

Number of houses with pail closets in collection area ...	402
Number of pail closets repaired ... ..	24
Number of water closets substituted for pail closets ...	77
Number of houses with water closets in the district ...	1645

The number of closet conversions carried out during the year 1953 although less than in the previous year, corresponds to the yearly average for the last five years. During this period of five years a total of 388 pail closets have been converted.

At the beginning of 1949 the approximate number of pail closets in the district was 770 ; the work carried out to date therefore has dealt with half the problem. It has been however the easy half. Of those that remain many present technical problems or problems of policy. Some have no sewer or water supply reasonably available, and many others are in property of poor quality that may in the future have to be dealt with under the provisions of the Housing Acts. The second part of the conversion programme will be affected by the practicibility of extending sewers and water mains, but chiefly by the adoption of a definite policy and programme for dealing with unfit houses which will make it clear at which houses the Council considers it worth while to carry out closet conversions.

In 1953 only 18 closet conversions were carried out voluntarily by the owners leaving 59 cases or 77% for the service of Statutory Notice and the payment of half the cost by the Council. The number of cases where statutory notices are served has increased steadily from 50% in 1950 to the present figure. It indicates among other things that the property which remains to be dealt with is of low value and that the owners are unable or unwilling to spend very much on improvements.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal.

During the year a regular weekly collection of house refuse was maintained. A re-organisation of collection rounds which was carried out following closet conversions, enabled the collection area to be extended to include twenty cottages scattered on the Humber Bank. From these houses refuse and nightsoil are collected weekly. The only houses from which collections are not made are farms on the outskirts of the district to the north and west, a total of about twenty houses. It is hoped to extend the service to these as soon as there is time available within the normal working week.

The following figures show how the character of refuse collection has changed during the last five years. At the end of 1949 there were in the collection area approximately 1880 houses using dustbins and 700 houses with earth closets which were serviced weekly. At the end of 1953 there were approximately 2100 houses using bins and 400 houses with earth closets. All the new houses using bins have been built on a modern open plan which materially increases the distance which has to be covered to collect a particular bin and take it to the vehicle. The houses where earth closets have been converted usually are closely placed and are easy to service as the distance to be covered is usually comparatively short. In addition those areas which have recently been included in the collection area are outlying and involve comparatively long journeys. Although there is a reduction in the number of visits which have to be made by the refuse collectors each week, the overall saving of time is not so great as might at first be expected by reason of the factors detailed above.

The present refuse collection vehicle, which is a dual purpose one, used both for nightsoil collection and house refuse, is giving satisfactory service. If closet conversions proceed at the same rate or an increased one, there should be little or no nightsoil collection to be done when the vehicle reaches the end of its useful life. While its replacement is still some years in the future it would be well to bear in mind the possibility of obtaining a modern rear-loading type of vehicle which is superior in operation to the present side-loading type.



## Rodent Control.

The usual baiting of sewers was carried out twice during the year in the Spring and Autumn. The provision of extra manholes mentioned in the section on Drainage has enabled closer control on rats in sewers to be obtained.

Premises were also examined and treated on complaint. In addition the usual survey of known chronic areas of infestation was carried out and treated during the Autumn.

The number of premises treated for rats is shown below—

(a) Dwellinghouses	...	...	...	...	74
(b) Other premises	...	...	...	...	20

The rat population in the district has been reduced to a fairly low level. In a district which has many possible sources of infestation it can only be kept at this low level by regular control methods and careful and immediate treatment of infested premises as soon as they are known.

## Conclusion.

Most of the work done in the last five years has been concerned with the improvement of the basic environmental services, drainage, water supply, sanitary accommodation and refuse collection. While there is still a great deal of scope for this sort of work, changing conditions make imperative an extension of activity into the field of housing repair and slum clearance, and food hygiene where little progress has been made since the war. The need for education in food hygiene is great as it is no less important to have food trade employees trained in hygiene than to have an enlightened general public who will be outspokenly critical of insanitary practices.

J. BROCKLEBANK,

Sanitary Inspector.





